

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31, 1867.

We have thus sketched out what would be the true plan of future operations on the part of the Philadelphia Library, on taking possession of one of the Penn Squares. And the same general features should govern the course of the three other societies which are to be similarly favored. Nor is the idea at all chimerical. The steps necessary are rendered perfectly clear to any one who will take the trouble to investigate. All that is necessary is some incentive, and that can be secured by making the adoption of some such plan a condition precedent to the grant of the squares to the corporations. If the adoption of such an idea by each of the four societies is made an essential requisite to the presentation of the squares, the first step will be secured. There is no necessity for any haste in the transference. Let the change be gradual. If it takes ten years it does not matter. But let the ultimate change be at once made, in effect, in the management of the associations. If such a return for the liberality of the city should be made by the new occupants of the squares we have no reason to doubt but that they could secure a handsome endowment both from the Commonwealth and the municipality. It would be to the direct advantage of both to make the public buildings an ornament and a pride to our city. Their influence would be felt throughout not only all the State, but throughout all the land, and a central spot be found around which the scientific and literary men of the nation could congregate. The beneficial influences of the adoption of this proper plan cannot be over estimated, but if it should have no other effect than to cause us just local pride, and place the advantages of learning within the reach of more of our people, enough would be gained to compensate the shareholders for the exclusive privileges which they have surrendered for the general good.

—The Rev. Dr. Banes, at the Unitarian Convention at Chicago last week, said he had studied the subject with deep thought and anguish, but he had never been able to find any reason why sin was let loose upon the world.

THE CENSORSHIP IN POLAND.—The Russian censor in Poland has suppressed a Polish prayer-book. It had passed the hands of the regular inspector of the press, and fifteen thousand copies were printed. Subsequently, a zealous official discovered some passages which to his mind appeared improper. He lost no time in forwarding intelligence to headquarters. All the copies were seized and while the first censor was on the point of dismissing, the other received high praises, promotion, and a "high order" for "exceptionally zealous fulfilment of his duties."

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